

REMARKS

As an initial matter, Information Disclosure Statements (IDSs), including Forms PTO/SB/08 A & B (modified), were filed on August 4 and December 1, 2003. Applicants respectfully request the return of initialed and signed copies of the submitted Forms.

Upon entry of the claim amendments, Claims 1-16 and 98 will be all the claims pending in the application.

Applicants have canceled Claims 17-97 without prejudice or disclaimer.

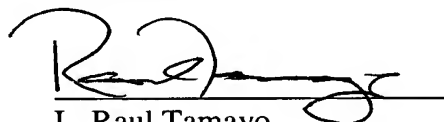
Regarding Claim 1, it has been amended as recommend by the Examiner at page 4, lines 9-15, of the final Office Action. Accordingly, no new matter has been added, and entry and consideration of amended Claim 1 is respectfully requested.

Amended Claim 1 is definite and renders moot the §112, second paragraph, rejection of Claims 1-16.

Reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,


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23373

CUSTOMER NUMBER

Date: August 23, 2004